

Trifles Design Worksheet

1. The way an audience perceives the play is shaped by the choice of performance venue, as well as the set that is designed for the play. Indeed, all the elements that you see and hear during a performance are bound to shape your perception of the play. Which of the following venues do you think can best meet the needs of the play? Given the details in the script, why do you think it is the best venue for a production?

I think that a proscenium stage would best suite *Trifles*. *Trifles* ' setting takes place in the same place the entire time (the Wright household), so I think that with the simple nature of the play, a proscenium viewing of the play would be appropriate.

2. What are some of the challenges posed by the play on the design team?

I think that some challenges that the play could pose on the design team could be finding way to build a staircase for the men to use when they exit to search for evidence. I also think that making sure all of the aspects that relate to the women discovering evidence (the quilt, the unkempt kitchen, the bird and birdcage) are visible enough for the audience could be challenging.

3. Choose a character from the play and suggest how she/he should be dressed. In what ways do you think the costume would help accentuate his/her character?

I think that the County Attorney should be dressed very professionally and a little nicer than the other characters. The County Attorney is a very vocal character who seems very full of himself, and I think that him being dressed this would help to distinguish him and his personality even more.

4. Given the content of the play, how might the lighting design help further the mood of the production?

I think that to symbolize that dark, depressing nature of the Wright household, dim lighting should be used throughout the play. I think that this would help the audience imagine the sad, depressing environment that Mrs. Wright has lived in for so many years of her, and might also help them see the conditions that drove her to do what she did.

5. Suggest music or sound effects that might be used to accentuate the mood or atmosphere of the play and the transitions between parts of the play.

I think that some sound effects that could be used to add to the atmosphere of the play could be the faint sounds of winter wind outside, as well as the footsteps of the men creaking upstairs to add to the gloomy, eerie feel of the play.